

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049996

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L/EA - MR. ROH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SN, TW, CH

SUBJECT: USE OF AMERICAN CREWMEN ON OIL EXPLORATION VES-
SELS IN TAIWAN STRAIT

REF: SINGAPORE 896

1. THERE IS NO US OR ROC LEGAL PROHIBITION AGAINST THE
USE OF AMERICAN CREWMEN ON OIL EXPLORATION VESSELS
OPERATING IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT. HOWEVER, USG POLICY
CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF DISCOURAGING US OIL COMPANIES
FROM EXPLORATION OR EXPLOITATION ACTIVITIES IN DISPUTED
AREAS. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY WARNED OIL COMPANIES OF
THE RISKS OF ACTIVITIES IN TAIWAN STRAITS AREA WHICH
IS SUBJECT TO CONFLICTING PRC AND ROC CLAIMS, AND HAVE
MADE CLEAR THAT IF THEY CHOOSE TO PROCEED, THEY CANNOT
EXPECT USG PROTECTION. AS PART OF THIS EFFORT AND TO
MINIMIZE PROBLEMS WHICH COULD ARISE FROM VISIBLE AND
DIRECT AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT, WE HAVE URGED COMPANIES TO
AVOID USE OF AMERICAN FLAG VESSELS AND AMERICAN CITIZENS
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PAGE 02 STATE 049996

IN SUCH ACTIVITIES. TO DATE US FIRMS HAVE HEEDED THIS

PARTICULAR ADVICE AND WE STRONGLY DESIRE THAT THIS RECORD
OF COMPLIANCE BE MAINTAINED INTACT.

2. FOR SINGAPORE: IN YOUR REPLY TO TIDEX YOU SHOULD
REITERATE THIS POSITION IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS;

MAKING CLEAR THAT WE WOULD MAKE NO EXCEPTIONS IN CASE OF
TDY CREW MEMBERS.

3. FOR SINGAPORE AND TAIPEI: WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING
WHETHER GULF HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY TIDEX IN THIS MATTER.
IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH TIDEX AND GULF YOU SHOULD
ADDITIONALLY STRESS THAT WE HOPE US FIRMS RECOGNIZE THAT
THEIR OWN AND USG INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED BY MAINTAINING
LOWEST POSSIBLE AMERICAN PROFILE IN TAIWAN STRAITS AREA.
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